

SOREX BICOLOR.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Dentes Primorès superiores duo bifidi.

Inferiores quatuor : intermediis brevioribus.

Laniarii utrinque plures.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 73.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

SOREX cauda mediocri, corpore supra nigricante, subtus albicante.

SOREX cauda mediocri subnuda, corpore nigricante, subtus cinereo.

Erx. Mamm. p. 124.

MUSARANEUS dorso nigro ventreque albo.

Merret. pin. p. 167.

Inter quadrupedes Britanniae rariores merito numeratur parvulus hic Sorex, ab illis solummodo qui praecipuam scientiae naturali navant operam, observari solitus. In Europa fere omni nascitur, et ut docet dominus PALLAS, in Sibiria frequenter reperitur. In Gallia annum circiter millesimum septingentesimum quinquagesimum sextum a domino DAUBENTON detectus et descriptus est. In Anglia longe antea cognitus,

tus, inter animalia tamen deperdita habebatur, donec annum circiter millesimum septingentesimum sexagesimum octavum, juxta cœnobium de Reevesby in comitatu Lincolnienſi iterum deprenſus ſit. Vix dubitandum eſt quin in aliis multis Angliæ partibus poſſit inveniri. Cur tamdiu incognitus manſerit in cauſa eſſe videtur obſcuritas latibulorum, (amat enim ripas fluviorum, locaque aquoſa,) nec non communis hujusmodi rerum incuria. In certis Buckinghamiæ locis nequaquam rarus eſt, et Oxoniæ vicinio: ſedem vero ſibi potiffimum delegit in aggeribus fluminis Collegii Beatiæ Mariæ Magdalenæ ambulacra circumcuntis; ubi non raro mortuus jacet, quod et Sorici Araneo LINNÆI, ſeu vulgari ſæpius accidit, a qua ſpecie facillime primo intuitu, colore nempe longe diverſo, dignoſci poteſt. *



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THE
WATER-SHREW.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Two *cutting Teeth* in each jaw.
Long slender *Nose*: small *Ears*.
Five *Toes* on each foot.

Pennant.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

SOREX black above, whitish beneath.

MUSARAIGNE D'EAU.

Daubenton Mem. de l'Acad. de Paris, 1756,
p. 211. t. 5. f. 2.

WATER-SHREW.

Pennant Hist. Quadr. p. 480.

This animal may be numbered amongst the rarer quadrupeds of Britain, and is but very seldom noticed except by those who pay a more than ordinary degree of attention to the natural productions of our kingdom. It appears to be a native of almost every part of Europe, and from the observations of Dr. PALLAS it should seem to be very well known in Siberia. In France it was discovered and described by Mr. DAUBENTON in the year 1756. In England it had long before been noticed;

ticed; but was considered amongst the lost quadrupeds of our island till about the year 1768, when it was again observed in the neighbourhood of Reevesby-Abbey in Lincolnshire. It may probably be discovered in many other parts of the kingdom, and its continuing so long undistinguished must partly be ascribed to the obscurity of its retreats, under the banks of rivers, and in watery places, and partly to a mere want of attention to objects of this nature. In some parts of Buckinghamshire it is not very uncommon, it is also found in the neighbourhood of Oxford; and it seldom fails to reside in the banks of the river surrounding the water-walks of Magdalen College; and is not unfrequently found dead by the edges of the walks, in the same manner as the common Shrew, or *Sorex Araneus* of LINNÆUS, from which it may always be most readily distinguished by its very different color.